



## 2007 Graduation

By Suzette Green-Wright

On July 19th, 2007, the Utah Certified Public Manager® Program held their graduation at the Salt Lake Community College, Larry H. Miller Campus. There were ninety-nine public employee graduates and one graduate who finished her program after leaving state government employment. The graduates were honored with an audience of about 250 people that included families, friends and supervisors

J.J. Acker, Director, Utah CPM Program, welcomed the group and gave a short history on the Utah CPM program and the growth of participants, not only in state government, but local and federal governments as well. UCPM is creating new options for courses to be located in more areas of the state.



J.J. Acker welcomes the graduates

The Executive Director of the Department of Human Resource Management, Jeff Herring, then spoke on the purpose of the multi-support given to the CPM program.

Suzette Green-Wright, Utah Society of Certified Public Managers® 2007 President, spoke on working with the Utah CPM Program to create continuing education (CE) courses that would be 2-hour, 4-hour or 8-hour credits for CE. Both organizations feel that it is important to continue to develop new skills and refine old skills for those in all managing levels of government.



V. Loggins Merrill was selected to speak on behalf of the graduating class

Dr. Phyllis Safman, Assistant Commissioner of the Utah System of Higher Education, spoke to the graduates and guests about the importance of continuing to learn and that the Commissioner of Higher Education was proud of their efforts.

V. Loggins Merrill from the Department of Workforce Services was selected to represent all the graduates and spoke on 'Investing in eggs'. He spoke on the CPM program as being a program that was directed on changing or developing us as managers as in investing in our selves. Through self-evaluation, Mr. Merrill told us we develop our personal vision, values and goals. It also helps us to create a process to improve ours' and others' behaviors. He reminded us that we cannot skip the process and jump from Point A to Point Z unless we truly understand all the ramifications or we will be like the cottager that had the hen that laid the golden egg. He forgot where the gold came from and decided that he and his wife would have chicken dinner. "If we put ourselves in the cottager's place, where we see the return on investment that CPM has given us," said Mr. Merrill, "the eggs are our new skills we have learned."

Tani Pack Downing, General Counsel to Governor Huntsman was the keynote speaker for CPM Graduation. Ms. Pack-Downing spoke about her life plan and how when she didn't achieve her goals as she suspected she became very discouraged, but through this life lesson she has learned that allowing doors to open and going through them is the best life plan for her.



Tani Pack Downing was the keynote speaker for the event

The 2007 George C. Askew Award was presented to the 'State Mail Improvement Team' for their CPM project on changing the state mail pick up process to better streamline cost and better stagger the use of manpower hours. The George C. Askew Award is given to the team that best utilizes management practices and exemplifies the philosophy of the American Academy of Certified Public Managers. Our team will compete with the 31 other societies for the National 2007 Askew Award.

The graduates were then called up by Departments to receive their diplomas with department heads there to congratulate them. Photos were taken of the various department groups and then we were all dismissed for a wonderful refreshment opportunity provided by the USCPM.



Congratulations to our 2007 CPM Graduates

[Click here to view the 2007 Graduation Program](#)